

## REMARKS

Claims 10, 11, 13, 41, 52, 55, 61 and 63-65 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. By this amendment Claims 10, 13, 41, 52, 55, 61 and 63-65 have been rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. As a result, Claims 10, 11, 13, 41, 52, 55, 61 and 63-65 stand allowable.

Similarly, the dependency of Claims 42, 45-47, 53-54 and 56-60 have been amended to depend from allowable claims. As a result, Claims 42, 45-47, 53-54 and 56-60 stand allowable.

The Examiner states in his discussion of "allowable subject matter" that the feature of "the system and method having the ability to maintain a record of trust relationships regarding the communications system, and using that to determine the level of trust between the various communicating entities", is not implemented in either Hashimoto or Bork and would not be obvious over these designs (Office Action dated March 26, 2003, page 10, lines 15-20). Claim 1 has been amended to incorporate the spirit of the Examiner's above reasoning. As such, Claim 1 stands allowable. Similarly, Claims 2, 4-9, 12 and 14-24 stand allowable as depending from allowable Claim 1. Accordingly, Claims 1, 2, 4-24, 41-61 and 53-65 stand allowable.

Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the application as the earliest possible date.

Respectfully submitted,



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